



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Am

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/369,690	08/06/1999	MASATO TAKEUCHI	49233-(1117)	7128
21874	7590	05/16/2005	EXAMINER	
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP			WON, MICHAEL YOUNG	
P.O. BOX 55874			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BOSTON, MA 02205			2155	

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/369,690

Applicant(s)

TAKEUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Y. Won

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 and 4-7 have been amended.
2. Claims 1-7 have been re-examined and are pending with this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tso (US Pat No.6085201 A).

As per **claim 1**, Tso teaches an information processing (see col.1, lines 4-7) device for transmitting and receiving electronic mail over a transmission line,

Art Unit: 2155

comprising: a memory means (see Fig.2, #4 and col.3, line 46) for storing answer examples for a reply mail (see col.4, lines 23-24 and col.5, lines 7-9); a contents selecting means for presenting a contents of a received mail and requiring a user to select therefrom at least one or more portions of contents of said received mail (see Fig.4; col.2, lines 63-64; and col.6, lines 6-15) necessary for preparing a reply to the received mail (see Fig.3, #231, #233, & #235; col.4, lines 31-36; col.5, lines 49-53; and col.6, line 66 to col.7, line 13); a temporary memory means for temporarily storing said one or more portions of contents of said received mail selected by said contents selecting means (see col.3, lines 36-38); an answer message selecting means for requiring a user to select any of the answer examples stored by the memory means (see Fig.3 and col.5, lines 42-48 & 51-60); and a reply-mail preparing means for preparing a reply mail by coupling said one or more portions stored in said temporary memory means with answer examples selected by the answer message selecting means (see Fig.3; Fig.4; col.6, line 66 to col.7, lines 13; and col.7, lines 28-31), wherein said reply mail includes said at least one or more portions of contents of said received mail (see Fig.4; col.2, lines 63-64; and col.6, lines 6-15).

As per **claim 2**, Tso further teaches wherein it is further provided with a reply mail setting means for setting a sender of the received mail as an addressee of the reply mail and a receiver of the received mail as an addresser of the reply mail (inherent: see col.4 lines 31-34).

As per **claim 3**, Tso further teaches wherein it is further provided with a reply example preparing means for generating any kinds of answer examples and an answer

example adding means for additionally storing the answer examples prepared by the reply example preparing means into the memory means (see col.6, lines 59-63).

As per **claim 4**, Tso teaches a storage medium carrying a program readable by a computer (see col.3, lines 21-28), which program causes the computer to execute the steps of: requiring a user to select at least one or more portions of necessary contents picked from received mail (see Fig.3, #231, #233, & #235; col.4, lines 31-36; col.5, lines 49-53; and col.6, line 66 to col.7, line 13) and storing the contents into a reply contents storage means (see col.6, lines 59-63 and col.7, lines 28-31); presenting candidate answer examples previously stored in a candidate answer storage means and requiring the user to select one of the candidate answer examples (see Fig.3 and col.5, lines 42-48 & 51-60); storing the selected candidate answer into an answer storage means (see col.6, lines 59-63); and preparing reply mail by coupling at least one or more portions of the contents stored in the reply contents storage means with the answer examples stored in the answer storage means and storing the prepared reply mail in a reply mail storage means (see Fig.3; Fig.4; col.6, line 66 to col.7, lines 13; and col.7, lines 28-31), wherein said reply mail includes said at least one or more portions of said received mail (see Fig.4; col.2, lines 63-64; and col.6, lines 6-15).

As per **claim 5**, Tso teaches a storage medium carrying a program readable by a computer (see col.3, lines 21-28), which program causes the computer to execute the steps of: requiring a user to select at least one or more portions of necessary contents picked from received mail (see Fig.3, #231, #233, & #235; col.4, lines 31-36; col.5, lines 49-53; and col.6, line 66 to col.7, line 13) and storing the contents into a reply contents

Art Unit: 2155

storage means (see col.6, lines 59-63 and col.7, lines 28-31); presenting candidate answer examples previously stored in a candidate answer storage means and requiring said user to select one of said candidate answer examples (see Fig.3 and col.5, lines 42-48 & 51-60); storing the selected candidate answer into an answer storage means (see col.6, lines 59-63); preparing reply mail by coupling at least one or more portions of the contents stored in the reply contents storage means with a contents stored in the answer storage means and storing the prepared reply mail in a reply mail storage means (see Fig.3; Fig.4; col.6, line 66 to col.7, lines 13; and col.7, lines 28-31), wherein said reply mail includes said at least one or more portions of said received mail (see Fig.4; col.2, lines 63-64; and col.6, lines 6-15); and setting a sender of the received mail as an addressee of the reply mail and a receiver of the received mail as an addresser of the reply mail (see claim 2 rejection above).

As per **claim 6**, Tso teaches a storage medium carrying a program readable by a computer (see col.3, lines 21-28), which program causes the computer to execute the steps of: displaying received mail to a user on a screen (see col.4, lines 23-24 and col.5, lines 7-9); requiring the user to select at least one or more portions of the necessary contents from the received mail (see Fig.3, #231, #233, & #235; col.4, lines 31-36; col.5, lines 49-53; and col.6, line 66 to col.7, line 13) and storing the contents into a reply contents storage means (see col.6, lines 59-63 and col.7, lines 28-31); presenting candidate answer examples previously stored in a candidate answer storage means on said screen and requiring the user to select one of the candidate answer examples as a selected candidate answer (see Fig.3 and col.5, lines 42-48 & 51-60);

Art Unit: 2155

storing the selected candidate answer into an answer storage means(see col.6, lines 59-63); and preparing a reply mail by associating at least one or more portions of the contents stored in the reply contents storage means with the answer examples stored in the answer storage means and storing the prepared reply mail in a reply mail storage means (see Fig.3; Fig.4; col.6, line 66 to col.7, lines 13; and col.7, lines 28-31), wherein said reply mail includes said at least one or more portions of said received mail (see Fig.4; col.2, lines 63-64; and col.6, lines 6-15).

As per **claim 7**, Tso teaches an information processing (see col.1, lines 4-7) device for transmitting and receiving electronic mail over a transmission line, comprising: a screen (see Fig.1, #2) for displaying electronic mail to a user (see col.4, lines 5-12); a memory means (see Fig.2, #4 and col.3, line 46) for storing answer examples for a reply mail (see col.4, lines 23-24 and col.5, lines 7-9); a contents selecting means for displaying the contents of a received mail on said screen and requiring a user to select therefrom at least one or more portions of the contents of said received mail necessary for preparing a reply to the received mail (see Fig.3, #231, #233, & #235; col.4, lines 31-36; col.5, lines 49-53; and col.6, line 66 to col.7, line 13); a temporary memory means for temporarily storing said one or more portions of contents of said received mail selected by said contents selecting means (see col.3, lines 36-38); an answer message selecting means for requiring the user to select any of the answer examples stored by the memory means as displayed on said screen (see Fig.3 and col.5, lines 42-48 & 51-60); and a reply-mail preparing means for preparing a reply mail for display on said screen by associating said one or more portions stored in said

Art Unit: 2155

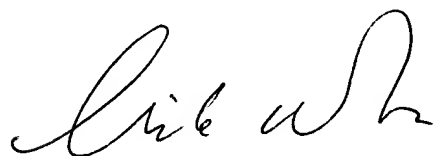
temporary memory means with answer examples selected by the answer message selecting means (see Fig.3; Fig.4; col.6, line 66 to col.7, lines 13; and col.7, lines 28-31), wherein said reply mail includes said at least one or more portions of contents of said received mail (see Fig.4; col.2, lines 63-64; and col.6, lines 6-15).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Y. Won whose telephone number is 571-272-3993. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th: 7AM-5PM.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael Won



May 10, 2005


BHARAT BAROT
PRIMARY EXAMINER